

REMARKS

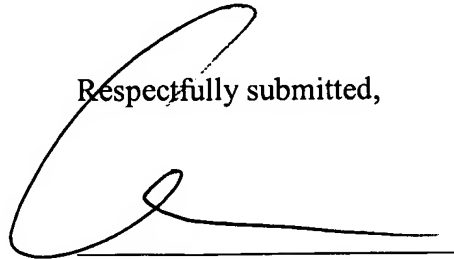
Claims 1-9 have been examined. Claims 1, 3, 8, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 2 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has objected to claim 7 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 1, but acknowledges that it contains allowable subject matter.

Since claims 1-6, 8, and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of these claims is moot. Also, since claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form, the objection to the claim is overcome.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 29, 2006